



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

June 1, 2007

News from the Chief

With the current session of the state legislature winding down, a strong push is being made for the passage of a tough, meaningful “crooks with guns” law. Late Thursday, a letter signed by the chiefs of police from Tennessee’s four largest cities, and endorsed by the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police and the Tennessee Sheriff’s Association, was hand delivered to Governor Bredesen’s office. In the letter, we ask the Governor to make funding of the “crooks with guns” proposal a priority.

As you may recall, the proposed legislation would make it a separate crime to employ a firearm during the commission of a felony. A conviction would carry a ten-year sentence to be served at 100% and consecutive to any other sentence. The ten-year term could not be reduced or probated. Mere possession of a firearm during the commission of a serious felony would carry a sentence of six years to be served at 100%. Possession of a firearm during the commission of less serious felonies would carry a three-year sentence to be served at 100%.

The “crooks with guns” concept has considerable support on Capitol Hill. The significant roadblock has been the estimated prison costs associated with the longer sentences. The chiefs and sheriffs believe the enhanced safety that this legislation will bring to Nashville and every other Tennessee county is worth the expense, as is the request by the state’s district attorneys general to add more prosecutors to handle the cases of these criminals. If you have the opportunity, please express your support for this legislation to the lawmakers who represent you.

Thank you all for your dedication and tremendous work.

Happenings

Metro Police Officer Dan Alford, who was critically wounded two years ago by an armed convicted felon in the John Henry Hale public housing development, was honored May 23 as the latest recipient of the prestigious Theodore Roosevelt Association Police Award.

The Theodore Roosevelt Association Police Award is given to a police officer who has rendered outstanding and praiseworthy service to the department and the community despite a serious handicap, illness, or injury.

On the morning of July 14, 2005, Officer Alford and his colleagues on the West Precinct's Flex Unit were on foot patrol in John Henry Hale looking for signs of drug dealing. Most of the buildings were abandoned and had been scheduled for demolition. When a group of individuals saw the uniformed presence, they split up and ran into two vacant apartments. As Officer Alford worked to clear a second story bedroom of one apartment, he heard movement in a closet and suddenly saw a gun protrude from the closet door.

"The next moment, the shooter was peppering me," Alford said. "I remember the blast waves of heat and pressure slapping me in the face."

Alford was hit several times. One of the rounds was stopped by his bulletproof vest before it could enter his chest. Another bullet entered his lower left side, just under his vest. He was also hit in the left shoulder and suffered a shrapnel wound to his left cheek.

Although critically wounded, Alford managed to return the fire. The gunman, who was carrying cocaine, marijuana, and a wad of cash, was wounded in the right arm. He was quickly taken into custody by Alford's fellow officers.

Officer Alford spent several days at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and then several months at home recovering. Determined to resume his career at the Metropolitan Police Department, Alford returned to light duty on December 6, 2005. He underwent follow-up surgery in February 2006 and resumed his police work in May. When asked about his determination, Alford said, "I can't let him, or it, or them beat me."

Alford, 35, is a ten-year police department veteran. He is now a member of the Bomb Squad, an assignment he requested.

"Dan Alford stared death in the face, recovered from his gunshot wounds, and is on the streets today serving Nashville's families," Chief Ronal Serpas said. "I am tremendously proud of him, his perseverance, and his love of police work."

"I am most appreciative that the Theodore Roosevelt Association's Jim Summerville and his colleagues take time each year to recognize truly outstanding officers and their contributions to our city," Serpas said.

The Theodore Roosevelt Association established this awards program in honor of Theodore Roosevelt's distinguished service as President of the Board of Police Commissioners of New York City from 1895 to 1897, and in recognition of his lifelong admiration for the police.

Nashville is one of a handful of cities in the United States to present the Roosevelt Award. Others include New York City, Buffalo and upstate New York, Boston, Long Island, Dallas, and Philadelphia.

The generous support of Sprint/Nextel Communications makes this year's award possible. Through Sprint/Nextel's generosity, and that of the Theodore Roosevelt Association, Officer Alford will receive a \$1,000 cash award, a medal, and a bust of Theodore Roosevelt. A bronze plaque, which bears a likeness of Roosevelt, and which is currently on display in the lobby of police headquarters, will now include the inscription of Officer Alford's name.

Past Metro Police recipients of the Theodore Roosevelt Award were Sgt. Phillip Sage (1998), Detective Clifford Mann (1999), Detective Frank Pierce (2000), Sergeant James (Jimbo) Allen (2001), Officer William Richardson (2002), Detective Joe Cooper (2003), Officer Horace Temple (2004), Officer Foster Hite (2005), and Detective Jeff Ball (2006).

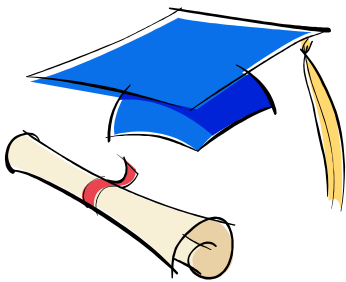


Pictured (l-r) are Theodore Roosevelt Association Trustee Jim Summerville, Sprint/Nextel Communications executive Brenda Wilt, Officer Dan Alford, and Chief Serpas

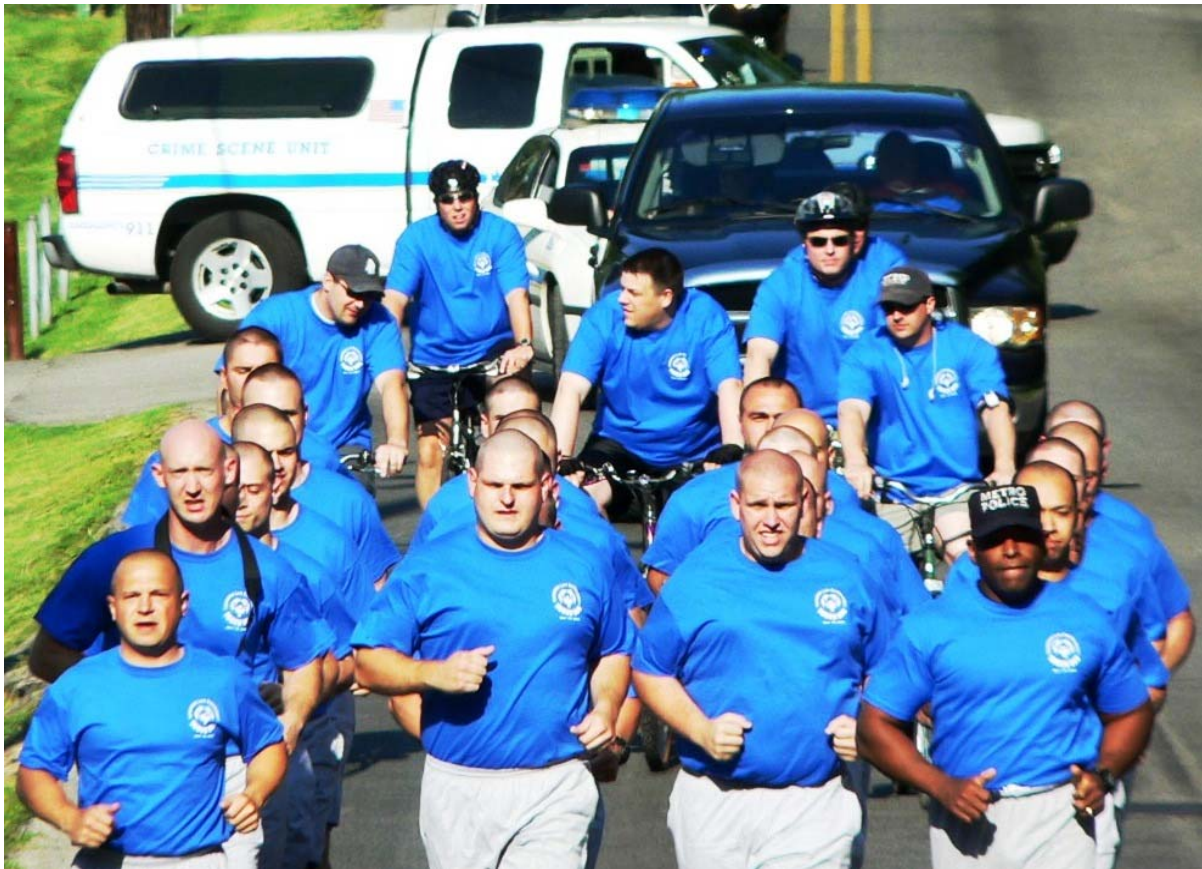
Lieutenant Melvin Brown, South Precinct, and Officer Charles Large, Hermitage Precinct, congratulate each other on Officer Large's promotion to Sergeant in the Tennessee Army National Guard and Lieutenant Brown's Bronze Star Medal award from his first tour of duty in Iraq. Both men were redeployed May 26.



Lt. Melvin Brown and Officer Charles Large



Officer Chris Gilder graduated with a Juris Doctorate degree from Nashville School of Law, May 26, at the Nashville Convention Center. Officer Gilder is currently assigned to Case Preparation and teaches law at the Metro Police Training Academy. Chris is indeed having a busy year. He is the proud father of a two month old baby girl, Lauren, and will be studying for the Bar Exam, which he will take in late July.



Session 54 ran the final leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Tennessee May 18th to officially open the Summer Special Olympic Games for the State of Tennessee.

Twenty-three K-9 teams from Tennessee and Arkansas gathered in Jackson May 18, for Detector Dog Certification.

Three M.N.P.D. cross-trained canines finished in the top five. Officer Mark Sydenstricker and K-9 Balto came in fourth with a score of 198.50, Officer Robert Collins and K-9 Shrek came in second with a score of 199.17, and Officer Terry Burnett and his K-9 came in first with a score of 199.50. These remarkable scores were out of a possible 200.



Officer Bob Doak and Sergeant Jeff Sanders with the Metropolitan Police Department's new armored rescue vehicle at Career Day at Cumberland Elementary School.

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Officer Jeremy Smith responded to a harassment call and was standing with the victim when the suspect drove by her residence. The suspect had threatened the victim over the phone stating he had a gun. The victim told Officer Smith where the suspect usually kept the weapon in his vehicle.

Officer Smith was able to stop the suspect and in a subsequent search of the vehicle a semi-automatic handgun was found where the victim said it would be located. The suspect was charged with unlawful possession of a weapon and harassment.

South

A thorough investigation of suspicious activities led to the arrest of eight people on drug-related charges, and the seizure of three handguns.

Officers Jason Kausch and Officer Stanley Collins responded to a residence after reports of a fight in the yard. When the officers arrived at the scene, two people were sitting in a car in

the front yard and claimed to have no knowledge of a fight. While speaking with them, Officers Kausch and Collins saw a torn plastic baggie consistent with narcotics packing on the floor of the car. The owner of the car came out of the house and said people had been injured breaking up a dog fight.

Officers Kausch and Collins performed a knock and talk at the residence to determine if anyone required medical attention. Officers were invited inside where they saw drug paraphernalia in plain view.

Eight people were arrested on a total of 15 charges including simple possession of methamphetamine, criminal impersonation, possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, possession of drug paraphernalia, and felony weapons violations. Seized were 7.5 grams of methamphetamine, marijuana roaches, and three weapons. Two outstanding warrants were also served.

Over one quarter pound of marijuana was seized during a traffic stop by Officer Burl Johnson.

Officer Johnson saw a marijuana pipe in the vehicle and during a subsequent search found rolling papers, a set of digital scales, 135.5 ounces of marijuana, and baggies used to package the marijuana.

The suspect was charged with possession of marijuana for resale.

Officer Sergio Espinosa conducted a terry stop due to a complaint in the area. A marijuana blunt was observed in plain view and a search of the vehicle uncovered two loaded handguns, and 28 grams of marijuana. Two adults and three juveniles were arrested.

A major graffiti cleanup was likely avoided when two adults and one juvenile were caught with 40 cans of spray paint in the 200 block of Imperial Drive. It appears that they were planning to “tag” Interstate 24 at Foster Avenue.

The juvenile was charged with violating curfew and the adults were given state citations for contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

East

A 26-year-old man with over 70 prior charges was stopped by Officer Melissa Schultz for a window tint violation. Officer Schultz immediately detected the odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. Seized in a subsequent search were 7 Ecstasy pills, 1.1 grams of cocaine, and 2.4 grams of marijuana. He is charged with felony drug possession and driving on a revoked license.

Outstanding police work by several components of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department led to the seizure of 92 marijuana plants from a heavily wooded area behind the home of a 20-year-old Nashville man.

East Precinct officers and members of the Special Response Team responded to a call of shots fired at the residence. During a subsequent investigation it was determined that marijuana was being grown on the property.

The Aviation Unit was able to direct officers to two separate areas where the marijuana was being cultivated. East Precinct undercover detectives made their way through thick brush until they were able to locate the plants.

The 20-year-old is charged with the manufacture and possession of marijuana for resale. The plants have an estimated street value of \$90,000. An additional 91.6 grams of processed marijuana were also seized.

North

The Community Response Team targeted several areas in response to citizen's complaints about illegal drug activity, prostitution, and a home invasion. Areas targeted included Buena Vista, Clarksville Highway, Tucker Road, Welworth Avenue, Gallatin Pike, Spring Branch Drive, and Dinwiddie Drive.

Officers are working with apartment complex managers, conducting business checks, and traffic stops, and interviewing suspicious persons, as well as attempting to serve outstanding warrants on criminals who live in these areas.

The Community Response Team reassured residents in the community that they are proactively fighting crime in their neighborhoods.

Officer Michael Waltz stopped the driver of a vehicle after he crossed a road into oncoming traffic. The driver provided Officer Waltz with a Tennessee identification only card. Officer Waltz ran the driver's name on his laptop for warrants and learned that he had five felony warrants. Two for rape of a child, and three for aggravated sexual battery of a child. He was taken into custody and booked on the five felony warrants.

West

An investigation by West Precinct undercover detectives resulted in the seizure of 57 pounds of marijuana Saturday night and the arrest of an Arlington, Texas, man. Leon Valdez, 27, drove to Nashville in a rented Lincoln Continental.

Valdez was parked outside the Krystal Restaurant at 5209 Charlotte Pike when officers became suspicious. The area had been under surveillance because of suspected drug activity. A K-9 Unit was called and a search of the vehicle uncovered several bags of marijuana inside the Lincoln's trunk.

Valdez is charged with possession of marijuana for resale and is being held on \$500,000 bond. The estimated street value of the marijuana is \$60,000.



Marijuana Seized by West Precinct Undercover Detectives

Central

Outstanding police work by Central Precinct Sergeant Matt England led to the arrest of a man suspected in a series of commercial burglaries on Cowan Street, Centennial Boulevard, and Brick Church Pike.

Sergeant England arrested Sterling Harris, 50, of Heritage Drive, for an outstanding burglary warrant after spotting Harris in his Mitsubishi Mirage at 8th Avenue North and Jefferson Street. Harris is charged with burglary in the May 19 break-in at Roppel Industries, 817 Cowan Street. Sergeant England identified Harris as the suspect through latent prints found at Roppel Industries following the burglary. Harris is also charged with felony cocaine and marijuana possession.

For the past month, Harris has been seen wandering around numerous businesses during the day and when asked what he was doing, he would respond that he was looking for a job. Harris is suspected of primarily stealing laptops from area businesses during nighttime burglaries.

Officer John Donegan prevented downtown visitors from paying a man who was posing as a parking attendant at a lot on Demonbreun Street. Officer Donegan arrested the man and charged him with trespassing. He was also wanted on two outstanding warrants.

Criminal Investigations Division-Sex Crimes

A Nashville woman trying to cover up an extra-marital affair was sentenced by Judge Randall Wyatt to 500 hours of community service for the extensive police department investigation caused by her false claim of sexual assault. Colleen Anderson, 32, was also given a suspended two year prison sentence, three years probation, and will have to write a letter of apology to the police department.

Anderson was charged with filing a false police report in June 2006 after it was determined that her claims of being pulled over and assaulted by a man posing as a police officer were not true. Anderson claimed in December 2004 that a man in a dark blue uniform pulled her over on Highway 70 in the Bellevue area and attacked her.

At her sentencing hearing, Anderson conceded that the report was false. She had spent the evening with a man in an apartment and was using the story as an excuse to keep her husband from finding out about the affair.

Background and Recruiting

By Lt. Michele Donegan

The next civil service test date is June 30, 2007.

For the July class, we currently have eight hired and one returning pensioner. There are currently 30 additional candidates who are being considered for the July Police Officer Trainee class upon the completion and passing of their CVSA, Psychological, medical and approval from the Panel Review.

The long awaited new recruitment brochure is at the printers! The Background and Recruitment staff will be visiting roll calls to talk about recruitment and provide brochures that officers can hand out to perspective applicants in the very near future!

Fiscal

For Fiscal Year 2007: It is recommended that Officer's purchase items at Greene Military ASAP so Greene Military can submit invoices before the end of the Fiscal Year.

Note: When picking up items at Greene Military, sign the invoice once items are received and write your 8 digit business unit number on the invoice. If you don't know this number you may call your secretary or MNPd Finance Section for this information. Receipt of goods from Greene Military beyond June 30, 2007 will be the responsibility of the Officer's personal expense or charged to their Fiscal Year 2008 clothing allowance. The clothing allowance budget is based on \$400.00 per year which cannot be carried over to the next fiscal year which begins July 1, 2007.

For Fiscal Year 2008, there are two options for which you can utilize your clothing allowance budget of \$400.00: obtain payment through your payroll check (you will receive payment on July 22, 2007) or set-up an account with Greene Military.

If you would like to CHANGE how you receive your clothing allowance, please email Darlene Sanders before June 30, 2007.

Congratulations:

Detective Brian Brown, East Precinct, and his wife Ashley, are the proud parents of Barrett Reid, born May 17.

Jamie Underwood, North Precinct, and her husband Mike, are the proud parents of Francesca Marie, born May 30.



Condolences:

Ms. Mattie Viola Dunn Pruitt, mother of Glenda P. Hunter, Police Data Center Supervisor, passed away May 20.

Ms. Dora York, grandmother of Officer Jackie Daniels, North Precinct, passed away May 19.

Mr. Percy Holmes, grandfather of Officer Sean Williams, Hermitage Precinct, passed away recently.

Ms. Gertrude King, Aunt of Officer Mable Osemwegie, Background & Recruitment, passed away recently.

Mrs. Erma Claybon, retired Field Operations Bureau, wife of retired Sergeant John Claybon, and the mother of Consuelo Bridget Claybon, Youth Services, passed away May 25.

Ms. Mary Elizabeth Neal, mother of retired Officer John Morgan, West Precinct, passed away June 1.

FYI:

As Officer Danita Marsh continues to recover from her gunshot wounds, the 100 Club of Nashville has committed to help her regain some of life's basic choices by financing the purchase of accessible housing and a specially equipped vehicle. Persons wanting to make a tax deductible contribution to assist Officer Marsh are urged to make checks payable to the 100 Club of Nashville and include the Marsh name on the memo portion. One hundred percent of the money donated will go to the Marsh fund. Checks can be mailed to The Hundred Club of Nashville, P.O. Box 190428, Nashville, Tennessee, 37219-0428.